

Finch & C^o



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BANDED ALABASTER VESSEL USED FOR OILS

A LARGE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BANDED ALABASTER VESSEL USED FOR OILS

3RD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD (1069 – 656 BC)

SIZE: 20CM HIGH, 10CM DIA – 8 INS HIGH, 4 INS DIA

LITERATURE

THE MANUFACTURE OF STONE VESSELS HAD A LONG HISTORY IN ANCIENT EGYPT GOING BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF THE PRE-DYNASTIC PERIOD. HOWEVER, THESE SUPERBLY CRAFTED STONE VESSELS SHOW LESS VARIATION IN THEIR DESIGN FROM ONE PERIOD TO THE NEXT THAN DO EGYPTIAN CERAMIC VESSELS.

ALL KINDS OF STONE WAS WORKED RANGING FROM SOFT LIMESTONE, ALABASTER AND SANDSTONE TO THE HARDEST GRANITE, DIORITE AND QUARTZITE. THE CRAFTSMEN CHOSE AND SHAPED THE STONE CAREFULLY TO MAXIMISE THE DECORATIVE EFFECT OF THE NATURAL COLOUR AND BANDING. WORKERS IN STONE AND WOOD WERE KNOWN AS 'HEMUTY' AND THEY MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST OF ALL PRE-DYNASTIC CRAFTSMEN TO ACHIEVE AN INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY, SINCE THE SAME TERM IS USED IN OLD EGYPTIAN TO DENOTE BOTH THESE AND CRAFTSMEN IN GENERAL.